# Bed Bugs in the Community

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# What are they?

- Parasites related to Lice
- Reddish-brown, ovalshaped, flattened insects about the size of a tick
- Non-disease vectors
- Feed off the blood of humans





# History

- Many references to them in historical literature
  - "Red Coat Bugs"
- Widely eradicated in *developed* countries after the use of DDT and other toxic pesticides
- Resurgence due to restriction of such chemicals and ease of travel

# Where are they found?

- Apartments, homes, shelters, hotels, dormitories, laundromats, etc.
- Live in cracks or crevices where people sit or sleep for long periods of time

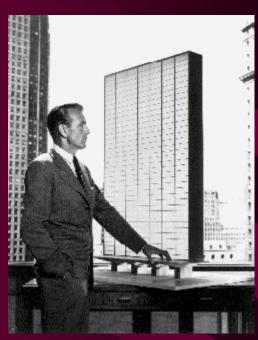


## Who Can Get Bitten?









### **Everyone**

regardless of age, sanitation or class!

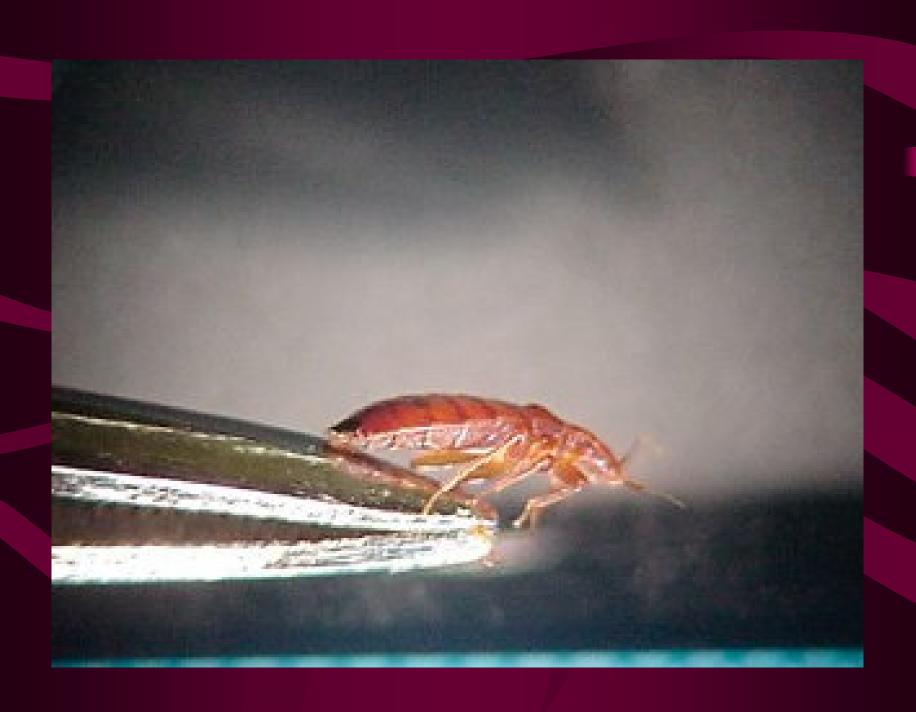
# How Are They Detected?

- Blood-stained Smears on Bedding, Walls, Curtains
- Usually Only ComeOut at Night
- Hiding in Picture
   Frames, Bedding,
   Window Frames,
   Carpets or Walls









## What do the Bites Look Like?

- Relatively Painless
- Reddish
- Raised
- Itchy



# Prevention and Control

# Special Precautions

- Furniture or Bedding on the Side of the Road or at Trash Collection Sites
- Used Furniture or Bedding
- Community Laundromats
- Furnished Apartments
- Hotels and Motels







- Encourage them to contact the property owner
  - The sooner you address the problem the better chance you have to successfully eliminate it
- Contact the local health officer and/or code enforcement official to make an offical complaint
  - Depends on local ordinances and State codes/RSA's

- Advise them to avoid using over-the-counter pesticides (such as 'Raid') especially in areas occupied by children/infants or people with respiratory disorders
  - Not effective
  - Misuse and toxicity
- Contact a licensed Pest Control Operator (PCO)
  - Ask for references
  - Have they been successful in treating them

- Tenants need to work together with property owners and PCO's!!!!
  - Proper treatment preparation
    - Laundering
    - Vacuuming
    - Bed covers
  - Removal of untreatable items
  - Eliminating use of unchecked used furniture etc.

#### Key Facts

- Successful eradication may require multiple chemical/heat treatments
- Ongoing monitoring is essential
- One "bad" tenant in a multi-family will ruin the effort
- Need to provide tenants with easy to use instructions and resources to handle their end of the bargain.....

## Multi-Agency Pest Control Effort

- Langdon Mill Campaign
  - 20 unit apartment building
  - 50 residents
  - Relocated for 2 weeks
  - Ongoing education and surveillance
- Spring/Summer/Fall 2009 and Ongoing

#### Who was Involved? Part 1

- Property Owner
- Community Organizers
  - Granite State Organizing Project
  - American Friends Service Committee
- Local Government
  - Manchester Health, Public Works, Building and School Departments, and Mayor's Office
- Academic Institutions
  - St. Anselm College

#### Who was Involved? Part 2

- Faith Based Organizations
  - Manchester Church of God
- Community Advocacy Groups
  - Greater Manchester Association of Social Service Agencies (GMASA)
  - United Way
- Local Businesses
  - Wal Mart

### Lessons Learned

- Waiting too long makes an infestation impossible to completely eradicate
  - Active surveillance continues
  - Quick response to new sightings
- Must be a carefully coordinated effort
  - Must have the support of the property owner and ALL tenants
  - Pick up of infested materials must be timely
- Education and ongoing assessments are a must

## Lessons Learned

- Must identify barriers to success
  - Languages and Literacy
  - **-** \$\$\$
    - New or "gently used" replacement items
    - Laundry
    - Relocation
  - New Tenants
  - Reducing the "stigma" of reporting

## Now What...

- Bedbug Policy Task Force
  - Policy Change
    - Reducing risk factors
      - Curbside bedding/furniture pick-up
    - Addressing areas of concern
      - Used furniture and clothing operations
    - Increase funding to treat/support treatment
  - Public Education
    - Increase access to educational materials
    - Reduce stigma

## Referral Information

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